

House Bill No. 5044 – An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending

June 30, 2017

Greetings Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am saddened and concerned that House Bill No. 5044 or any bill would propose to reduce funding for LPRAC. I am asking that you do not let this occur. Clearly, LPRAC lives up to its charge to provide my legislators and governor with valid and up-to-date information about the issues, problems, needs and concerns of the ever growing Latino population of Connecticut.

I have attended LPRAC hearings where there was an opportunity to voice my heart felt concerns about injustices to English Language Learners in our public schools. I witnessed this first hand as a public school teacher. As a teacher and as an elected and an appointed official in Windham, it is obvious that there was and continues to be a tremendous need for a focused approach for up-to-date data regarding the health and safety, education, economic status, and discrimination toward Latinos. This was apparent to me recently when attending Latino Policy Day two weeks ago at the Capitol.

I hope that all of you can appreciate the extremely valuable role of LPRAC for your work into the future and you will see fit in these difficult times to continue to fully fund LPRAC.

Sincerely,

Bill Powers

P.O. Box 12

Windham, CT. 06280

February 18, 2016